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**Subject:** [External] Backroom Rate Dealing, but Good News on Fracked Pipeline

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*Building People Power for Climate & Energy Justice*

*See more below on:*

- *The News & Observer coming out against Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP)*
- *Backroom dealing undermining the Duke Energy rate case*

## **N&O vs ACP**

[Sunday's lead editorial](#) sharply criticized the Duke-Dominion fracked gas project, noting especially the disastrous climate impacts of methane leakage, and the [far better option](#) of ramping up renewables and battery storage.

### ***Stand up against the ACP:***

1. Comment in support of the editorial online.
2. Send short letters to the editor: **forum@newsobserver.com**.
3. Urge Gov. Cooper to hold the line against the ACP: **contactgov@nc.gov**, 919-814-2000.

## **The Atlantic Coast Pipeline will slow conversion to more renewable energy**

By the Editorial Board

*News & Observer*

November 18, 2017

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline is being touted as a vital supply line for economic development in eastern North Carolina, but it also would contribute to a major threat to the flood-prone region by exacerbating climate change.

The 600-mile natural gas pipeline is planned to run from West Virginia's natural gas fields through Virginia and North Carolina. The \$6 billion project backed by Charlotte-based Duke Energy and

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Richmond-based Dominion Resources is moving steadily through a thicket of federal and state requirements and its developers expect to complete the permitting process by mid-December. But disputes over access to local property and legal objections from environmental groups could still stall the massive tree cutting, tunneling and trenching needed for the pipeline.

Such obstacles may be temporary given the resources and political clout of the developers, but they are necessary and welcome. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission failed to allow for a full public assessment of the pipeline before it granted approval. Appeals of that decision by various environmental and consumer advocacy groups will buy time for a fuller assessment of the need for the pipeline, its impact on the land and waterways and the risks it poses to residents who would live near it.

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## Backroom Dealing

Late Friday, the Utilities Commission postponed [today's 1pm hearing](#) on Duke Energy-Progress' requested 16.7% rate hike because the regulators are arranging a backroom settlement with Duke Energy (the hearing is rescheduled for next Monday, Nov. 27 at 1pm).

This continues a longstanding and outrageous pattern: the regulators cut a private deal with Duke Energy that undermines other parties' cases and shields Duke from full and open scrutiny.

Duke Energy's control over state government and public discourse makes a mockery of democratic process in North Carolina.

***Voice your concerns with the Utilities Commission: [statements@ncuc.net](mailto:statements@ncuc.net).***

*Now in its 29<sup>th</sup> year, NC WARN's mission urgency is to induce Charlotte-based Duke Energy – one of the world's largest corporate utilities – to make a strong shift to clean, affordable energy in order to stem pollution's damage to communities, and to help avert climate tipping points and ongoing rate hikes.*

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